CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A peptide, comprising the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

2. The peptide of claim 1, consisting of the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

3. A composition of matter, comprising a peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said peptide selected from the group consisting of Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

4. The composition of matter of claim 3, wherein the peptide consists of the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

5. The composition of matter of claim 3, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a buffered aqueous carrier.

6. A pharmaceutical composition for stimulating sexual response in a mammal, comprising a peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said peptide selected from the group consisting of Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of matter of claim 6, wherein the peptide consists of the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for stimulating sexual response in a mammal, comprising a peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said peptide is a free acid or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1), His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp, homologs of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1) and homologs of His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp.

9. The pharamceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said peptide is a cyclic peptide.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said peptide has a terminal carboxyl group.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein the peptide consists of the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

12. A method for stimulating sexual response in a mammal, comprising administering a pharmaceutically sufficient amount of a composition comprising a peptide or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal is a male.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal is a female.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically sufficient amount is at a dose level that does not induce emesis or other deleterious side effects.

16. The method of claim of claim 12, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein administering comprises administering by a method of administration selected from the group consisting of administration by injection, administration through mucous membranes, buccal administration, oral administration, dermal administration, inhalation administration and nasal administration.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein administering comprises nasal administration of a metered amount of a formulation comprising an aqueous buffer.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the aqueous buffer is a member selected from the group consisting of saline and citrate buffer.

20. A method for stimulating sexual response in a mammal, comprising administering a pharmaceutically sufficient amount of a composition comprising peptide wherein said peptide is a free acid or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1), His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp, homologs of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1) and homologs of His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the mammal is a male.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the mammal is a female.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the peptide consists of the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

24. The method of claim of claim 20, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein administering comprises administering by a method of administration selected from the group consisting of administration by injection, administration through mucous membranes, buccal administration, oral administration, dermal administration, inhalation administration and nasal administration.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein administering comprises nasal administration of a metered amount of a formulation comprising an aqueous buffer.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the aqueous buffer is a member selected from the group consisting of saline and citrate buffer.